

4/10/12

Dear Cedric,

Glad to get the good news that you are coming. I hope it allows you to visit here for a while. I may be able to help with your next book. I understand it also is on the repressive past. I knew many of the people on both sides, victims and villains. I was on a first-name basis with Martin Dies, Joe Starnes, etc and on the other side, a good friend of Vito Marcantonio, who lived with me for several years. I was the closest thing he had to an investigator. Aside from the considerable amount he was able to do on his own, we orchestrated much between us. Often I was his chaffeur, so we'd discuss what happened when I took him where. And I have many of my old files, what remains of the research for my book on the UnAmericans and those on the radical right of the day.

I say "what remains" because I left The Hollywood Ten have what they wanted so they could fight, which, as I recall, they didn't preferring the kinds of speeches they wrote, directed and repeated in their professional lives. They never returned anything! I once had such things as the official record of every penny the UnAmericans spent. I kept three stenos working solidly for three weeks in the Clerk of the House's office, getting this and some stuff I gave Jack Spivack. I should have a considerable amount of info on the sources of political money and how it was spent. The GOPs subsidized and actually employed overt fascists. These fascists, in return, ~~had~~, led political campaigns against almost any anti-fascists. Anyway, what the Ten didn't take I still have and you are welcome to it and my memory.

Matter of fact, I had some stuff on the Mexican fascists, like the Gold Shirts, and on Axis connections and activities, if you have any compañeros who would like it. Here what is missing is what I gave one of FDR's sons. He used much in his famous fireside chat on Latin America.

The files of some of the red-baiting liberals of that era might be available. L.M. Birkhead's son was with Agriculture a couple of years ago. Birkhead ran Friends of Democracy.

Ian sent me a copy of the story. We also discussed it when he was here for dinner Saturday. He engaged a number of officials in conversations they found embarrassing, not reflected in his story. And I used a phone I had reason to believe was not private, which often provides a means of overcoming a communications barrier.

I'm too broke to call the NECLC to learn your schedule. I'll be an hour away when you are at IPS. I can meet you at any of the area airports or deliver you. It is an hour to or from National and Dulles, about 10-15 minutes more to Friendship. I may be in touch with IPS people before then but am not sure. I go to Washington only when necessary, what with being broke and having more than 100,000 miles on the old but first-rate car. My last several trips there to see what if anything I could do to help you did not result in a single call-back. They all stay busy.

Let me give you my phone in case you can use it: Area Code 301/473-8196. Beginning the end of April my wife will have some part-time work. Providing her with transportation will have me away for brief periods around 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. We are almost never away nights. The rest of the time I'm here. Often, with five acres to care for so we and the birds and animals can enjoy it, I can't hear the phone.

When you have time, there is something you can do that may be helpful. I think the Watergater E. Howard Hunt really is the Bay of Pigs Frank Bender and Barker his No. 2 honcho known as "Bernie", the concentration-camp man. About 20 years ago Hunt was in Mexico City with a State cover. He and Buckley became friends there. They remain close. Anything about Hunt/Bender et al could be most helpful. I am in touch with some of the Senators, have already supplied some with information, and suspect that Hunt was engaged in domestic intelligence for the CIA and was instrumental in killing a deal I had set for my first book. I may want to do some writing on this, although I would anticipate all publishers would be afraid of a breaking story. Because I do have carbons of some CIA surveillance on me, if I can I will go to court. Anything about Hunt thus could be helpful because I can now connect him with the guy who presided over the end of the deal I'd made in 1965. Cubans should know all about those cats, all of them. ^Ur, they'd probably prefer gusanos.

Hunt enjoyed the best an appreciative government could provide. His credentials for 10 years of additional CIA employment after the Bay of Pigs and for subsequent White House employment were the best, more than the disaster. He actually urged the assassination of Castro to coincide with the invasion. I have it in his own voice, on tape that NBC has been sitting on for more than 10 days.

So, if you know the people who could be interested in him, they might know what could interest me. If I can get it into court it could interest many more. I have approached a lawyer on this.

A former Mexico City reporter, Pearl Gonzalez⁸², nee Fishbein and from New York City, wrote the enclosed graf. I suggested in response that contact should be made with all the writing and journalistic organizations possible, to the end that the loudest noises be made whenever and wherever possible. You may or may not know this man or about him. Pearl is now in L.A. looking for a job.

Nothing like this has yet happened here, where there is ~~paying~~^{spying}, etc., and the occasional misuse of the grand jury system. Mostly the pressures are economic. When one hasn't the money for a lawyer, this can get pretty rough. I suppose the biggest single impetus to the laundromat business after World War II was by anti-fascist intellectuals who had almost ~~nowhere~~^{where} else to turn. In my case I have large sums of money due me, mostly in New York, but I haven't the money to go there, can't get the ~~any~~ lawyer who said the cases were open-and-shut four or five years ago to do anything, and not being a New Yorker, have no connections with the legal community there. My by-mail efforts to date have been unsuccessful. With the money due me from wholesalers the statutes have begun to run. The Post Office says mail fraud, takes one of the cases, and then falls silent. So, comparatively, repression is fairly mild here. It hurts, but it does not yet use the lash. It seems to follow its central purpose, which is ~~merely~~ merely to repress and thus suppress. Until the opposition gets stronger and presents hazards it now does not, or until the paranoid government gets crazier, I suppose it will not be more vengeful and physical.

Great you are coming, if only for a month. Hope we can get together.

Garcias, yo retornar lo abraco (?)

Felicidad (?)